

9-30-1966

From/To: Mrs. C.H. Culp (Chalk's reply filed first)

C.H. Culp

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#### Recommended Citation

Culp, C. (1966). From/To: Mrs. C.H. Culp (Chalk's reply filed first). Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.harding.edu/hst-chalk-personal/4979>

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September 30, 1966

Mrs. C. H. Culp  
1910 Britain  
Wichita Falls, Texas

Dear Mrs. Culp:

Thank you for your letter of August 10. I deeply regret being unable to answer it before now, but I wanted you to know that I profited greatly from reading it.

We hold many convictions in common, and I do appreciate so much your emphasis on the New Testament teaching regarding Christian perfection. God has given us all power in the Gospel so that our lives are completely changed, and God has given us all power through the indwelling Spirit so that our lives continue to remain changed (Rom. 8:1-16; Eph. 3:14-21.)

The Biblical doctrine of sanctification is a very wonderful teaching regarding Christian perfection. Unfortunately we do not do enough teaching on this and other such subjects. We solicit your prayers and your continued interest in our program. Thank you so much for your kind letter.

Sincerely yours,

John Allen Chalk

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Mr. John Allen Chalk  
 Highland Church Of Christ  
 Abilene, Tex.

Dear Bro. Chalk

As usual I listened to your message Sunday morning. The subject you selected is one of great importance to people with a goal set toward reaching heaven.

Christ tells me of a straight and narrow road that leads to the place Christians are striving to reach. Isiah calls this route a highway of holiness. Nothing unclean like sinners will travel on this road. For the past 45 or 50 years we have boldly proclaimed to the church and the world that God doesn't expect or demand perfection in our life or work.

Paul says, that he doesn't speak wisdom or wisely only among the perfect. The church at Sardis was condemned because God had failed to find them with a perfect working record. Esiah says that God will hear our prayers when we feed the hungry and clothe the naked. Then will our light shine as the noon day and our health will spring forth speedily. No doubt this was a work the Sardis church had neglected. The same as we are doing today. When our prayers are not answered, we should know why.

In the current issue of Firm Foundation, Bro. Lemmons for the first time takes a stand on this question. There is an increasing appearance of existentialism in the pulpit. More and more brethren are saying that we are not all perfect, and not any of us have the truth. These are his words. I heard one of our Episcopal and a Methodist minister here, speak one evening on television, on the subject of God being dead. The Episcopal minister said, that the Bible was a secular book. He could hold it in one hand, and the daily newspaper in the other hand. Wasn't he a brilliant creature? I told him that any idiot could do that.

The doctrine that perfection was impossible, wasn't taught until after Satan invented the moving picture machine and the competitive sports games. The church swallowed both hook, line and sinker. I was pleased to hear you use the parables. They are going out of business and fast. Christ ordered his servants to cast the soul of the one talent man into torment. He had failed to deposit his money to the Lord's exchangers. Christ told him that his money should be put out on interest, so he could redeem it when he comes. We never teach this soul saving lesson. We get too much pleasure out of depositing God's money in the devil's bank. Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. I would love to meet the preacher, elder, teacher, editor or college president that could prove that picture shows and competitive sports are among God's fruit bearing orchard. They are unfruitful works of darkness.

Christ said the seed that fell among thorns, heard and went forth, and are choked with the pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. This is the reason why Christ tried to teach his family the lesson, we should know, by giving the parable of the one talent man. God set men as officers in his church for the purpose of perfecting his saints. We call God a liar and treat him worse than the one's that crucified his body, when we say it's impossible to reach perfection. God also told these officers such as preachers, elders and teachers, to remain on the job, until every man could be presented perfect in Christ Jesus.

In love for the truth

Mrs. C. H. Culp